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NEWS RELEASE

Nov. 10, 2005

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WINNERS OF UM ESSAY CONTEST ANNOUNCED

MISSOULA—

Sara Hamler of **Sheridan, Mont.**, took the first place \$400 award in The University of Montana's 2005 First-year Reading Experience essay contest.

Martha Sample of **Madison, Wisc.**, won the \$200 second-place award, and the \$100 third-place award went to Brent Reser of **Spokane, Wash.**

The contest is sponsored by UM each year for entering students.

Sherman Alexie's book "The Lone Ranger and Tonto Fistfight in Heaven" – a series of interwoven short stories that take place in or near the Spokane Indian Reservation, was chosen for the 2005 contest. The book served as the basis for the motion picture "Smoke Signals," winner of two Sundance Film Festival awards.

To read excerpts from this year's winning essays, go online to
<http://www.lib.umt.edu/firstyear/readingexperience/essay.htm>.

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